

## Commonwealth of Virginia

## VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1111 E. Main Street, Suite 1400, Richmond, Virginia 23219
P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218
(800) 592-5482
www.deq.virginia.gov

Matthew J. Strickler Secretary of Natural Resources David K. Paylor Director (804) 698-4000

December 16, 2019

Deron Lawrence Longroad Energy Management. LLC 330 Congress Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Boston MA 02210

RE: Foxhound Solar, LLC Location: Halifax County

Registration No.: RE0000095

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), after consultation with the Department of Historic Resources (DHR), the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF), and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), has completed its review of the September 11, 2019, application by Longroad Energy Management LLC (Longroad) for Foxhound Solar, LLC (Foxhound) for coverage under the Small Renewable Energy Project (Solar) Permit by Rule, 9VAC15 Chapter 60. Based upon this review, DEQ determines that the application satisfies the requirements of 9VAC15-60-30 provided that Foxhound complies with the following:

- All commitments referenced within the Application Documents submitted September 11, 2019;
- Submission as soon as practicable of final post-construction site map according to 9VAC15-60-70 A, and;
- Removal of all trees in accordance with the requirements of DGIF and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to protect indigenous bat species as set forth in the DGIF guidelines and guidance found at:
- https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/environmental-programs/environmental-services-section/

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- https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/bats/northern-long-eared-bat-application/
- http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/bats/little-brown-bat-tri-colored-bat-winter-habitat-roosts-application/
- http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/VDGIF-Time-of-Year-Restrictions-Table.pdf.

Based upon compliance with the conditions stated above, authority is hereby granted to Longroad to construct and operate Foxhound Solar; a photovoltaic project located north and south adjacent to Green Valley Road, east of the intersection of Mt. Laurel Rd (Highway 746) and Green Valley Road (Highway 778), and west of the Clover Power Station on roughly 1125 acres; with a cumulative total generating capacity of 83 MW AC, in accordance with all Application Documents, and this letter of approval.

This authorization for construction and operation shall not relieve Foxhound of the responsibility to comply with all other applicable local, state and federal statutes and regulations, including but not limited to strict adherence to applicable state and local erosion and sediment control/storm water management laws. This authorization does not relieve Foxhound of the responsibility to obtain any certification that may be required from the State Corporation Commission.

DEQ strongly encourages Foxhound to incorporate the DCR Recommended Actions listed below:

- Use of appropriate seed mix/plants and seasonal mowing developed in consultation with DCR;
  - Development of a monitoring and control plan for invasive species;
- The planting of native pollinator plants in the buffer areas of the planned facility, and;
- Minimizing habitat fragmentation by leaving round versus long, skinny natural cover and forest land fragments; retaining connective corridors that allow significant wildlife migration between fragments and designing the intervening landscape to benefit habitat; and natural cover as opposed to turf grass and mowed lawn.

Foxhound must notify Mary E. Major, DEQ Office of Renewable Energy Permitting, of the actual date on which construction of the solar project commences and the date of operation as soon as practicable. A notification to DEQ must be made 30 days prior to any transfer of ownership or operation according to the provisions of 9VAC15-60-100 A.

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Please note that if Foxhound is later found by DEQ not to qualify for coverage under the terms and conditions of the Solar Permit By Rule, then Foxhound could be subject to action under the enforcement provisions of the Solar Permit By Rule (9VAC15-60-140) for operation without a permit.

As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, you have 30 days from the date of the service of this decision to initiate an appeal of this decision, by filing notice with:

David K. Paylor, Director Virginia Department of Environmental Quality ATTN: Office of Renewable Energy Permitting Post Office Box 1105 Richmond, Virginia 23218

In the event this decision is served to you by mail, three days will be added to that period. Please refer to Part Two of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, which describes the required content of the Notice of Appeal, including specification of the Circuit Court to which the appeal is taken, and additional requirements governing appeals from decisions of administrative agencies.

If you have any questions concerning this authorization under the Small Renewable Energy Project Permit By Rule, please contact Mary E. Major at 804-698-4423.

Sincerely,

/S/

Michael G. Dowd Director, Air and Renewable Energy Division